

**Incident Report**

Washington DC Fire &amp; EMS Department

**2012-0125636 -000****Basic**

Alarm Date and Time	14:23:47	Monday, September 10, 2012
Arrival Time	14:26:38	
Controlled Date and Time		
Last Unit Cleared Date and Time	16:27:13	Monday, September 10, 2012
Response Time	0:02:51	
Priority Response	Yes	
Completed	Yes	
Fire Department Station	23	
Incident Type	111 - Building fire	
Initial Dispatch Code	69C01	
Aid Given or Received	N - None	
Alarms	1	
Action Taken 1	11 - Extinguish	
Action Taken 2	51 - Ventilate	
Action Taken 3	86 - Investigate	
Casualties	No	
Apparatus - Suppression	12	
Personnel - Suppression Personnel	37	
Property Loss	\$340,000.00	
Contents Loss	\$10,000.00	
Property Value	\$12,889,630.00	
Contents Value	\$1,000,000.00	
Detector Alerted occupants	2	
Mixed Use	NN - Not mixed use	
Property Use	464 - Barracks, dormitory	
Location Type	Address	
Address	2100 F ST NW	
City, State Zip	WASHINGTON, DC 20037	

**Fire**

Structure Type	1 - Enclosed building
Number of Residential	30
Number of Buildings Involved	1
Area of Origin	26 - Laundry area, wash house (laundry)
Heat Source	12 - Radiated, conducted heat from operating equipment
Item First Ignited	30 - Soft goods, wearing apparel, other
Type of Material	71 - Fabric, fiber, cotton, blends, rayon, wool
Cause of Ignition	3 - Failure of equipment or heat source
Contribution To Ignition 1	20 - Mechanical failure, malfunction, other
Equipment Type	811 - Clothes dryer
Equipment Brand	GE
Equipment Model	DSKS33EC0WW
Equipment Serial Number	RH502307A
Equipment Year	2011
Equipment Power	11 - Electrical line voltage (>= 50 volts)
Equipment Portability	2 - Stationary

**Structure**

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Structure	
Status	2 - In normal use
Floor of Origin	5
Stories Above Grade	8
Building Length	50
Building Width	100
Total Square Feet	5000
Fire Spread	2 - Confined to room of origin
Stories with Minor Damage	1
Item Contributing To Spread	30 - Soft goods, wearing apparel, other
Type of Material Contributing To	71 - Fabric, fiber, cotton, blends, rayon, wool
Detector Presence	1
Detector Type	1 - Smoke
Detector Power	2 - Hardwire only
Detector Operation	3 - Detector failed to operate
Detector Failure Reason	U - Undetermined
AES Presence	1
AES Type	1 - Wet-pipe sprinkler
Number of Sprinklers Present	1
AES Operation	1 - System operated and was effective

Narratives	
Narrative Name	E16
Narrative Type	Incident
Narrative Date	15:52:54 Monday, September 10, 2012
Author	
Author Rank	SGT
Author Assignment	1
Narrative Text	picked up E23 supply line gave condition of floors 2-4, backed up E23 on the 5th floor
Narrative Name	CAD Narrative
Narrative Type	CAD Narrative
Author	
Narrative Text	F120125636 E Type:69C01 BLDG- APPLIANCE (CONTAINED) Sub

Type:Disp:

COMMENTS:

69C01 BLDG- APPLIANCE (CONTAINED)

DRYER IN ROOM 501E23 REPORTS....NOTHING EVIDENT SIDE A.....BLDG IS BEING EVACUATED....NOTHINGEVIDENT. . . . .T02 REPORTS...ACTIVATED SPRINKLER SYSTEM..... .E23 REPORTS....LOBBY IS CLEAR..... .ALL HYDRANTS IN SERVICE.(((9 STORY NON CMBUSTIBLE BLDG SIDE C////T03))). . . . .E23 REPORTING SMOKE ON THE 5TH FLOOR.....E23 CONFIRMS DRYER IN UNIT 501-----FIRE IS OUT...CHECKING FOR EXTENSIONCMD 6 HOLDING ALL UNITS= = = =CMD6 REPORTS PRIMARTY SEARCH NEGATIVE....UTILITIES HAVE BEEN SHUT OFF. . . . .PER CMD 6 FIRE EXTINGISH OUT.....NOEXTENTIONS.....SECONDARY NEGATIVE.....LITE SMOKECONDCTIONS.....\CONT TO HLD E23,E01,T02,T03 A23,CMD6 ON THE SCENE ...OTHERUNITS WILL GO IN SERVICE WHEN READYT02 REQ FIRE INVESTIGATOR TO LOCATION.....FM211 AT H8 TO INTERVIEW TRANSPORTED OCCUPANT

**Narratives**

Narrative Name	Origin & Cause
Narrative Type	Other
Narrative Date	22:32:18 Monday, September 10, 2012
Author	
Author Rank	INVEST
Author Assignment	8
Narrative Text	INTRODUCTION:

On September 10, 2012 at approximately 1423 hours the District of Columbia Office of Unified Communications received a report of dryer fire in apartment 501 at 2100 F Street NW. The fire was reported by, Officer from Units from the District of Columbia Fire Department reported nothing evident upon arrival. The fire involves a eight story, fire-resistant structure, that is in use as a college dormitory. The building sustained minor damage to a portion of the structure.

The weather conditions on the day of the fire includes, a temperature range, with a low of 60?, and a high of 77? Fahrenheit, with north northwesterly winds at 10 m.p.h., with gusts up to 25 m.p.h. and no precipitation.

Authorization to enter the building was obtained due to exigent circumstances.

**SCENE ANALYSIS**

The fire scene analysis commenced on September 10, 2012. The building is equipped with hard-wired smoke detectors. The utilities to the building include electricity via service lateral. The utilities to the building are on at the time of inspection.

The analysis begins with an exterior examination. Examination of the front side, which faces in a northerly direction, reveals it is unremarkable. The remainder of the exterior revealed nothing remarkable.

The fire scene analysis continues with an examination of the interior. Examination of the interior begins with the first floor. Examination of the first floor reveals no remarkable fire damage, however a large amount of water damage was found.

The fire scene analysis continues with an examination of the apartment 501 which is identified as the area of origin. The apartment was found with a large amount of water damage and small area of smoke and soot stains in the laundry closet, which was adjacent to the kitchen. The apartment is equipped with an electrical panel that has no manufacturer labels which is situated in the hallway adjacent to the kitchen. Examination of the panel board reveals it is unremarkable. A pile of partially burned clothing was found in kitchen with melted distorted plastic dispersed throughout the pile and a dryer was located on the floor of the apartment hallway, which had obviously been removed from the laundry closet.

Movement and intensity patterns on the dryer, in and around the laundry closet indicated that the fire had originated within the dryer. The laundry duct was found to be clean. The

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## Narratives

fins within the drum had been severally damaged. The dryer was identified as the point of origin.

The dryer was identified as GE brand Spacemaker Model number DSKS33EC0WW with a Serial Number of RH502307A. Additionally, it appeared and was reported that the sprinkler, located above the washer and dryer closet, had activated and controlled most of the fire.

### INTERVIEWS:

DOB of 08/16/1992  
2100 F Street NW, Apartment 501

The interview was conducted at the scene on 9/10/2012. states that he left the apartment at approximately 1230 hours and had used the dryer the previous evening. He also stated that the dryer needed to be run several cycles in order to dry clothing. He received a text at approximately 1416 hours stating there was an issue in his apartment.

DOB of 02/08/1993  
2100 F Street NW, Apartment 501

The interview was conducted at the scene on 9/10/2012. stated that he placed clothing in the dryer and began using the dryer around 12 noon, with the setting placed on "Optimal" which he believes takes about an hour. After starting the dryer he left for the library. He also received a text at approximately 1416 hours reporting a problem in their apartment.

DOB of 6/6/1992  
2100 F Street NW, Apartment 501

The interview took place in the waiting room of GWU Hospital ED where he had been transported for smoke inhalation on 9/10/2012. Mr. reported that he was in the common room of the apartment working on the computer when he began smelling smoke. He then noticed smoke coming from the dryer, upon opening the dryer door a large amount of dark smoke came out of the dryer. He then closed the bedroom doors and exited the apartment. He stated that the smoke detector did not alert. He stated that he called the GWU Department of Public Safety at approximately 1417 hours, according to his cell phone.

### CONCLUSION

Based on a systematic fire scene examination which began with the identification and

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interpretation of movement and intensity patterns, combined with information gathered during the investigation, a hypothesis was proposed. This hypothesis was reviewed by peers and tested using the principals expressed in NFPA 921. This hypothesis included the area of origin, apartment 501 of 2100 F Street NW, and point of origin, the dryer drum. The fire began when an undetermined failure within the dryer caused the heating of the clothing in the dryer to reach its ignition temperature.

This fire has been classified as accidental.

This report is based on facts available at the time the report was written. Information made available after completion of the report may change the conclusions, origin and/or cause reported.

Narrative Name	R1
Narrative Type	Incident
Narrative Date	05:30:07 Friday, September 14, 2012
Author	FFA
Author Rank	FFT
Author Assignment	1
Narrative Text	Searched, misc. assisted w/ sprinkler shutoff

End of Report